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GATEWAY

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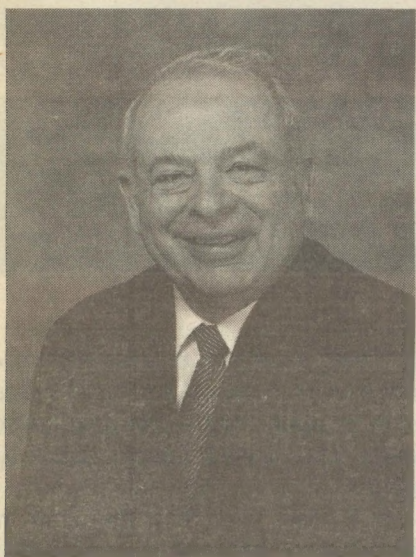
TUESDAY

July 18, 2006



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State Supreme Court removes NU regent



David Hergert

SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

Nebraska's Supreme Court ruled to remove an NU regent.

The University of Nebraska's seventh district is now without a representative following the conviction of former regent David Hergert.

Hergert was found guilty of two of 10

articles of impeachment on July 7, removing him from the Board of Regents and barring him from future public office.

The court published its opinion and ruling in the *Nebraska Advance Sheets*, a preliminary publication of the court's decisions. Opinions found in the *Sheets* are later made official in the less frequently published *Nebraska Reports*.

"We find that in the primary and general elections, Hergert intentionally manipulated and violated Nebraska's campaign finance laws in a scheme to prevent his opponents from receiving public campaign funds," the court wrote. "During the campaign and, significantly, after he took office, Hergert intentionally filed false reports of campaign spending in an attempt to cover up his conduct. Hergert's various explanations for his actions contradict one another and are not believable when the clear and convincing evidence before this court is considered."

Hergert was found guilty of two of the 10 counts with which he was charged in April: one for "falsely reporting the date of a material expenditure" and one for "obstructing government operations by falsely reporting the date of a material expenditure," according to the court's

See **HERGERT**: Page 8

Move to Division I considered to combat athletics budget crunch

SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

UNO Athletics is considering its options to deal with recent budget cuts, staff reductions and concerns of many loyal Maverick fans.

"Everyone's got athletics on their mind right now," said Chancellor Nancy Belck. "[The situation] is more complicated than it looks."

Five staff members, including former Associate Director of Athletics Debra Denbeck, lost their jobs last month when the university announced a \$440,000 reduction in the athletic program's 2005-06 budget. The cuts were part of a comprehensive plan developed by the university to balance a budget that has reported million-dollar deficits the last few years.

"We depleted the athletic reserves initially. Then we put in \$1 million of UNO reserves in 2004-05. And then for the current year, we're looking at...a \$1 million shortfall again," said Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration Julie Totten. "At least now, everything else is fairly healthy, [so] we're able to bail out athletics. But obviously we can't do that forever, so it was time to face

the decision of getting the budget back in balance."

Announcement of the cuts were followed the next day by the unrelated report that the University of North Dakota, a charter member of the North Central Conference, had decided to move to Division I. The University of South Dakota also announced it was exploring a similar reclassification, and Augustana College made a similar announcement on July 5.

"After UND made their announcement, then shortly following it USD did, and then that just made it look very bleak for the conference," Belck said. "That is when we kind of had the outpouring from our stakeholders—on one hand, we're cutting the budget; other hand, the conference is unraveling."

Belck has been a vocal supporter of the North Central Conference, but despite initial indications to the contrary, she said the university will be looking into moving to Division I. The university has come under intense criticism from community members and booster organizations like the Maverick Beef Club to consider a Division I reclassification.

"You can't look at budget and separate

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Soda price hike raises concerns about campus food costs, policy

TAYLOR MULLER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Students may notice having to spend an extra quarter to buy soda, but additional increases are not expected for many years. For some, however, the increase has raised questions about the university's food policy and its availability.

Mike Milone, the manager of University Food Services, said the raising of soda prices is due to an increase in prices from Pepsi.

"Part of the Pepsi contract ended," Milone said. "They were holding prices for five years. The extra cost was passed on to students."

The university has a ten-year contract with Pepsi, set to end in 2011, Milone said.

Twenty-ounce bottles now cost \$1.25 and cans are 75 cents in both the convenience store and vending machines across campus.

"Prices had not been raised for five years, it's a 25 percent increase—5 percent increase [for] each year," said Jim Welch, the director of the Milo Bail Student Center. "Next year, it won't go from \$1.25 to \$1.30; it'll be another three to five years before we do another price increase."

Those students looking to avoid higher prices are still allowed to bring in outside food and beverages for their own personal

use, according to a policy that was made available via the student center's Web site on July 11.

"All food served on campus must be furnished by the University Food Services due to health concerns," the policy states. "It is not the intent of such a policy to prohibit anyone from 'brown bagging'."

Brown bagging is defined as the bringing in of outside food for personal use, regardless of whether it was purchased or otherwise, Welch said.

"If I felt like having Taco Bell and got three tacos and a Pepsi and brought it here to eat with my friends at the food court, I would consider that acceptable brown bagging," Welch said. "Is it OK to bring in five pizzas from Godfather's? That would be a violation of the policy."

The interpretation and availability of the campus food policy is a topic of debate, said Student Government Senator Cassy Loseke.

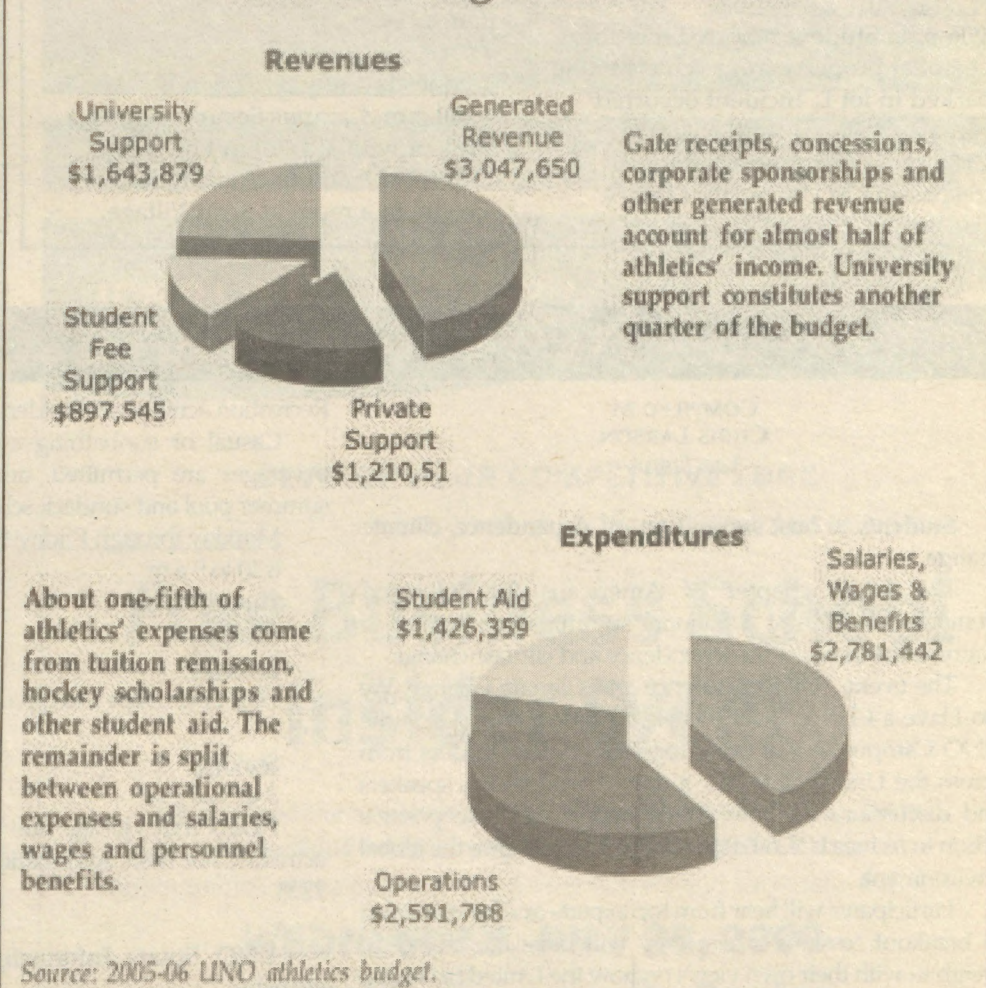
"Aaron Gilliland, the speaker of the [Student Senate], and I wrote a resolution about the availability of policies in general," Loseke said.

The resolution states that all campus policies not made available to the public are invalid, citing the Freedom of Information Act. It passed the Student Senate on April 6.

"The first issue is that they didn't

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Athletic Budget Breakdown



graphic by Scott Stewart

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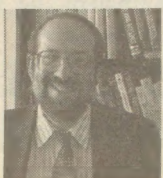
Today

Partly Cloudy/Wind
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Mav Investment camp provides opportunity for young women

TAYLOR MULLER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Financial education was the focus of an investment camp that was recently held at UNO, offering lectures and unique opportunities for its attendees.

The camp's aim was to educate 17 young women—high school seniors and incoming freshmen—about finances, savings and stocks, said camp coordinator David Volkman, chairperson of the department of finance, banking and law.

"It's rare to have an investment camp here in the Midwest," Volkman said. "Most are on the East Coast. Also, those usually have a cost of a couple hundred dollars; this has been free to the students."

The camp was possible due to a gift from the Merrill Lynch Foundation to the University of Nebraska Foundation. Their goal is to create investment camps for the next three years, each focusing on providing financial literacy to its attendees.

The students spent three days attending lectures given by local businesswomen, including the vice president of Wells Fargo Private Asset Management, the vice president of U.S. Bank and the first vice president of Merrill Lynch.

The students' stock portfolio presentations were videotaped, with plans

to submit them to Merrill Lynch's corporate headquarters in New York City for internship consideration.

"We learned about stocks, bonds, IRAs, savings accounts—all sorts of things," said Theresa Scheuber, an incoming freshman.

Lynn Harland, chairperson of the department of marketing and management, addressed the campers on their final day, encouraging them to use their new knowledge wherever their careers took them.

"I'm amazed with what you have accomplished," Harland said. "You now know more about investing than 99 percent of those on the Earth."

During the awards ceremony "Miss Nebraska" Molly McGrath, a graduate business student at UNO, addressed the campers, congratulating them on their hard work.

TD Ameritrade, Wells Fargo, West Corp. and Werner Enterprises also donated stock from their respective companies to the campers as a reward for their hard work.

"I feel that I've learned a lot," said Rebecca Liu, an incoming undecided freshman. "It reinforced the concepts I learned in high school. I plan on doing finance in college and this camp has really helped me."

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provide it, or it didn't exist, and the second issue is that it sounds as if they just wrote it to satisfy what we want and to make sure we don't cause any trouble," Loseke said. "I don't know if it's necessary closure, but it helps bring it around a little bit."

The addition of the two paragraphs to the policies section of the student center Web site raises more questions about what has been presented as the policy.

"Is it constitutional?" Loseke said. "What is the exact routine they have to go through to make it a policy? Have they done so?"

A uniform policy that has taken into

account the voice of the Faculty Senate, the deans of each college and the student body should be a priority for the Student Senate once it is back in session, Loseke said.

What students have noticed most is the increased out-of-pocket expenses for quick snacks while on campus. Sophomore pre-medical and biology student Selmira Terzic feels annoyed by the increased prices.

"It is pretty outrageous that they are raising the prices, especially 25 cents," Terzic said. "We already have to pay insane prices for everything else. I think they are just trying to make some more money."

www.unogateway.com

From **ATHLETICS**: Page 1

that from conference," Belck said. "As you have these instabilities continue to occur with the conference, and as some of our biggest competitors leave, like the Dakotas, that affects your competitive play and that begins to affect the gate receipts."

As they continue to explore alternatives, university administrators have been consistent in citing student-athletes as their primary focus.

"We have a lot of things to address in athletics, and we will," said Athletic Director David Herbster. "I don't want to put the burden of these things on the students."

Herbster went on to say that he wants to move to a more integrated fundraising model like that of Creighton University's Jaybackers, which sponsors all of Creighton's athletic programs—not just individual sports.

"You can't do it without volunteers," Herbster said. "We're a lot stronger together."

Both Herbster and Belck encouraged students to continue to support the program through their enthusiasm while attending games.

"I'd like students to be reassured that this university does focus on students, our first strategic goal," Belck

said. "That's the reason the cuts were made where they were made, so that we didn't have to cut sports that would greatly affect students—that is like cutting majors and programs on the academic side."

Belck also said that she does not anticipate any additional cuts and believes in the plan established to balance the athletic budget.

"In our continued optimism, we're hoping to generate an additional \$200,000 of revenue," Totten said. "At the time we put together the plan, that was challenging. In the current climate, that's even more challenging, but that's certainly why we want to get everyone back on board and come to our athletic events, and support us with their attendance and their fundraising."

Herbster believes that athletics needs to continue to reach out to the community and booster groups, and work on the sources of funding it can control, such as increased gate revenue.

"This is not a broken ship," Herbster said.

Crime Log

COMPILED BY
CHRIS LARSON
LINE EDITOR

Sunday, July 2, 2006

6:06 p.m. Student reported theft of personal property from vehicle while parked in lot L. Incident occurred between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
10:37 p.m. Visitor arrested for trespassing in University Library.

Monday, July 3, 2006

6 p.m. Campus Security officers discovered a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia at Scott Village. Student admitted to possession of the items.

Wednesday, July 5, 2006

10:50 p.m. Campus Security found a student with alcohol in Lot 11.
11:15 p.m. Campus Security found alcohol in a room at Scott Village.

News You Can Use

COMPILED BY
CHRIS LARSON
LINE EDITOR

Students to host summit on oil dependence, climate change

The UNO chapter of Americans for Informed Democracy will host a national summit this summer to examine the issues of oil dependence and climate change.

The event, "Oil Dependence and Climate Change: We Do Have a Choice," will be held Saturday, Aug. 12 on the UNO Campus. It will bring together student leaders from across the United States for a day of workshops, speakers and discussions on how young people can take positive action to reduce U.S. oil dependence and preserve the global environment.

Participants will hear from top experts and be immersed in breakout sessions where they will have the chance to weigh in with their own views on how the United States can ensure a secure energy future.

To apply for participation at the summit, visit the Web at aidemocracy.org/Omaha.cfm. The summit is designed for college students, but high school students with a special interest in the topic are eligible to apply.

For more information, contact Jenn Piatt at jnpiatt@gmail.com.

Beat the heat at HPER

The Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building Pool and its sundeck are available for use by Campus

Recreation activity cardholders and students.

Casual or sunbathing attire is required. Only water beverages are permitted, and no food is allowed. The summer pool and sundeck schedule is as follows:

Monday through Friday

6:30 to 9 a.m.

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

4 to 7 p.m.

Saturday

Pool open from 1 to 3 p.m. and sundeck opens at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday

3 to 5:30 p.m.

Hours may change due to weather, holidays or other activities. For more information, contact Eric Shanks at 554-2223.

UNO Sports Information Publications win seven awards

The UNO Sports Information Department has earned seven awards for its publications, including five "Best in the Nation" honors in contests conducted by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

The department's football, volleyball and softball media guides were all judged best in the nation among Division II schools. In addition, the covers of the men's basketball and softball media guides also earned best in the nation honors.

The women's soccer media guide placed second, and the men's basketball guide was fourth in the nation.

GATEWAY

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Meet the Blogger: UNO professor Art Diamond

CHARLEY REED
ASSISTANT A & L/PEOPLE EDITOR

While many may only associate "blogging" at UNO with student pages on MySpace or Facebook, there are faculty members and professors that run their own blogs as well. One of them is economics professor Art Diamond.

Diamond started his blog, artdiamondblog.com, just over one year ago and during that time has published his thoughts on topics that include Iraq, Hurricane Katrina and even Harry Potter.

For those who have never been to your blog, could you give a summary overview?

"Ever since I began teaching economics, over 20 years ago, I have clipped articles that I thought illustrated important points about how the world worked... The blog gives me a way to preserve and share this treasure trove of meaningful examples.

"Most of my entries involve government policy issues related to the economy. And most of these entries in one way or another illustrates the problems that arise from the intrusion of government into the free market."

What caused you to decide that a blog was something you wanted to start up?

"If I am right that the economics profession is currently undervaluing examples, then one way that I can contribute to truth and economic progress (as well as freedom

and justice) is to preserve and highlight some of the revealing examples that might otherwise be neglected by the profession.

"The well-known international economist Stanley Fischer is reported to have said that 'one good example is worth 1,000 theories.' That may be an exaggeration, but I do agree that good examples are worth a lot: partly as evidence and partly as pedagogy."

Do you think your position as a teacher at UNO affects what you put on your blog?

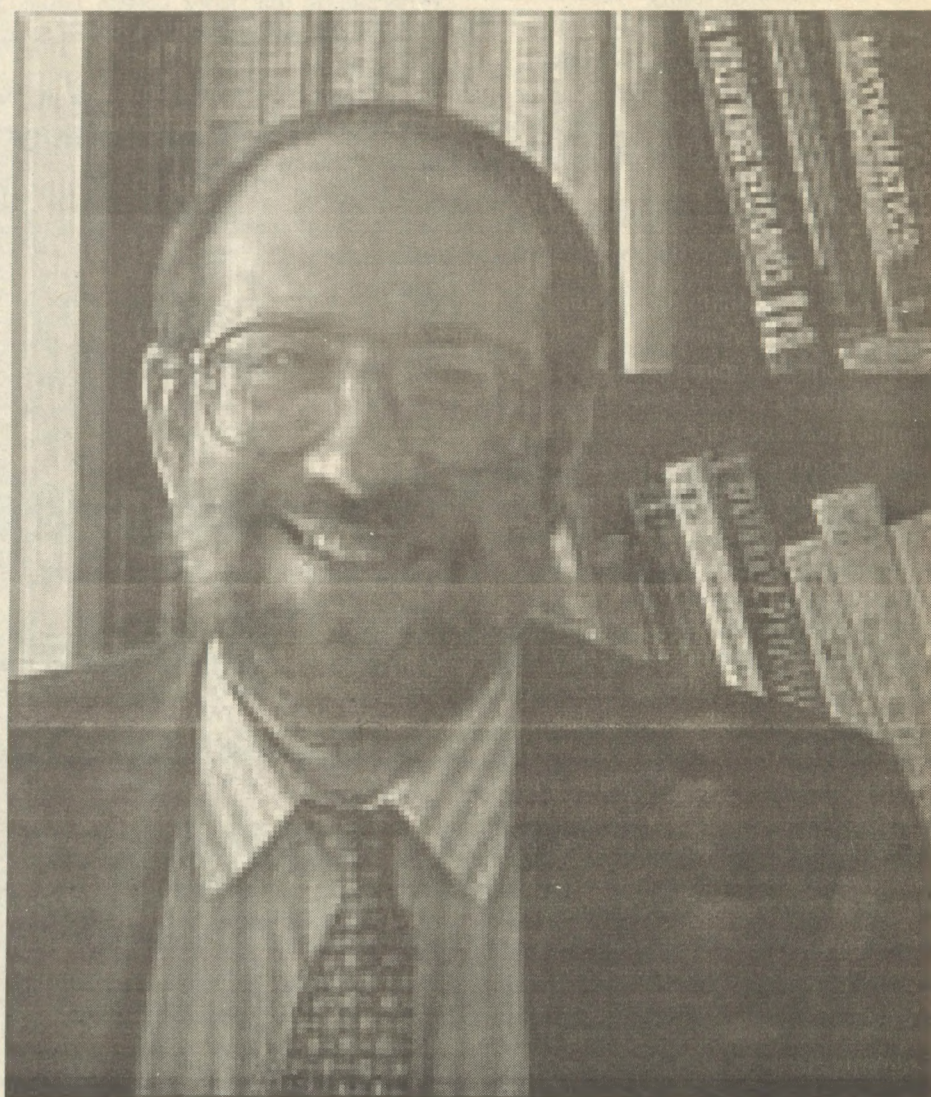
"I identify my blog as a 'personal blog' to make it clear that I speak for myself, and not for my department or college or UNO. I pay a monthly fee to a small blog-server outfit to host the blog, so that the UNO information technology infrastructure is not used for it.

"I probably write a bit more freely on this personal blog than I would if the blog were maintained and supported by UNO."

How do you think that blogs have influenced communication in the 21st century and what experiences have you had personally that helped you form that opinion?

"What Amazon does for books, blogs do for news and commentary. The variety is enormously increased, and the gain is in terms of the greater odds you will be able, more quickly and more exactly, to find what you are looking for.

"Almost every day, I use blogs to help me be more productive."

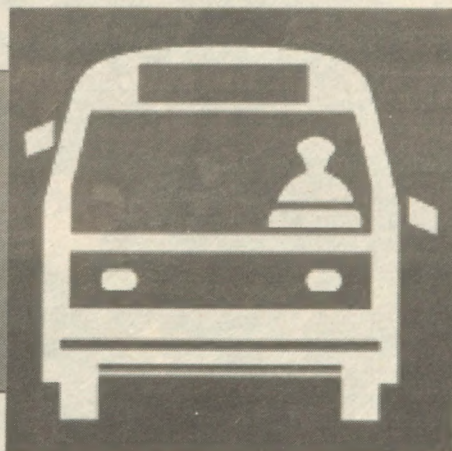


Dr. Art Diamond

Need a lift?

Summer Shuttle Bus Schedule

Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m. until 6 p.m.



The summer schedule concludes Friday, Aug. 11. On Monday, Aug. 21, regular service will resume from 6:30 a.m. until 10:30 p.m.

For more information, call Campus Security at 554-2648.

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Journalism professor publishes cautionary environmental guide

MATT GOODLETT
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Doom rides his bike to work.

Bruce Johansen, a prolific writer on global warming and a professor in the School of Communication, occasionally says, "They call me Dr. Doom."

You've probably recognized Johansen around campus, or peddling his wheels adjacent to Dodge Street. He doesn't look much like a professor. Gold glints all over his body; tugs at his earlobes, falls from his neck and lines his fingers like gauntlets.

Johansen often says that he rides his bike to work because of the parking problems at UNO, but it's also his small way of combating global warming.

He became interested in global warming in 2000 and began writing about it as a way to explain it to himself. On assignment for *The Progressive* in the summer of 2001, he visited with Sheila Watt-Cloutier on Baffin Island in the Arctic and saw firsthand an area affected by the early stages of global warming.

In the same year Johansen finished his first book on the subject, *The Global Warming Desk Reference*.

In the fall of 2001, Johansen presented "Ground Zero: Environmental Apocalypse" as part of a colloquium series at UNO. It was not the easiest experience for him.

"I can't stand the sound of my voice," Johansen said. "It's easier for me to read my work."

You see, Dr. Doom also stutters at times.

It's true that Johansen's speech snags, but it's not an impediment to his work. He often tells his beginning journalism students about a story that he covered for the *Seattle Times* as one of the paper's first environmental reporters in 1973. He prefaces it by saying, "Play dumb and act

smart." Johansen played to a hostile source's expectations that slow speech equaled a slow mind and shrewdly got the story he was after.

Although he doesn't offer it to students,

this is the same reason that he wears so much jewelry. It may sound like Mr. T logic, but Johansen says if people think you've got money, they're less likely to think you're stupid.

Those who still doubt his intelligence can look at the dozens of books Johansen has written, including *Global Warming in the Twenty-First Century*, published just this summer. The three-book set is 918 pages in length and took Johansen five years to write.

That people often underestimate Johansen for his speech is an attribute he shares with James E. Hansen of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Science. Hansen was the first to use the term "global warming"

in a scientific context and made headlines in the winter of 2006 for claiming that the Bush administration was trying to suppress government scientists who supported a need for drastic change to stop global warming.

Hansen, who grew up in Denison, Iowa, and delivered the *Omaha World-Herald* as a boy, has an "aw shucks" way of speaking, Johansen said.

"But his mind's like a steel trap, he pulls his critics in and then—" Johansen slapped his hands together. Members of Hansen's office read over the manuscripts for both *The Global Warming Desk Reference* and *Global Warming in the Twenty-First Century* to fact

check and provide additional information.

As Johansen focused on the science behind global warming his voice faltered less and became more authoritative.

Johansen said that what we see and feel in the climate comes to us on "feedback loop," explaining that today's fluctuations in

climate are the result of fossil fuel emissions from about 1960.

"If we react to what we see and feel in the atmosphere, we're fifty years behind," he said. "In the ocean we're a couple of centuries behind. When ice melts in the Arctic it exposes more ocean. Ice reflects heat. Ocean absorbs it. So that's a [biotic feedback] that gets worse as it goes."

Hansen predicts that we have one or two decades to seriously cut back on fossil fuel emissions before global warming gets past a tipping point, after which it will be too late to prevent feedbacks from eventually causing catastrophe on a global scale.

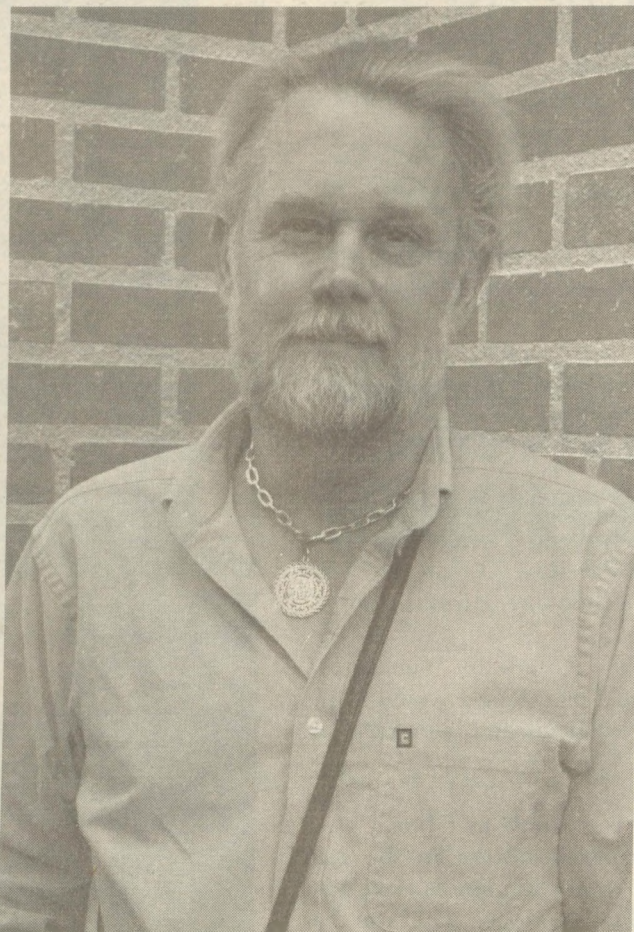
Watt-Cloutier has urged the rest of the world to see the Arctic as the canary in the mineshaft. She e-mailed Johansen in February 2006 to tell him they were having a thunderstorm and it was raining. Watt-Cloutier had never seen anything like it during that time of year, when average temperatures prohibit rainfall.

Johansen doesn't believe he's an alarmist, but what he writes about certainly is alarming.

That's why Dr. Doom's eyebrows sag sometimes. Some days he goes home depressed, pedaling adjacent to heavy Dodge Street traffic.

"The environmental issue is a tough one these days, because we're going in the wrong direction," he said. "If you study it, it's painfully obvious. Unfortunately the people who control things aren't studying it and it gets worse every day. Thus, I'm Dr. Doom as I face it, describe it and fight 'em about it."

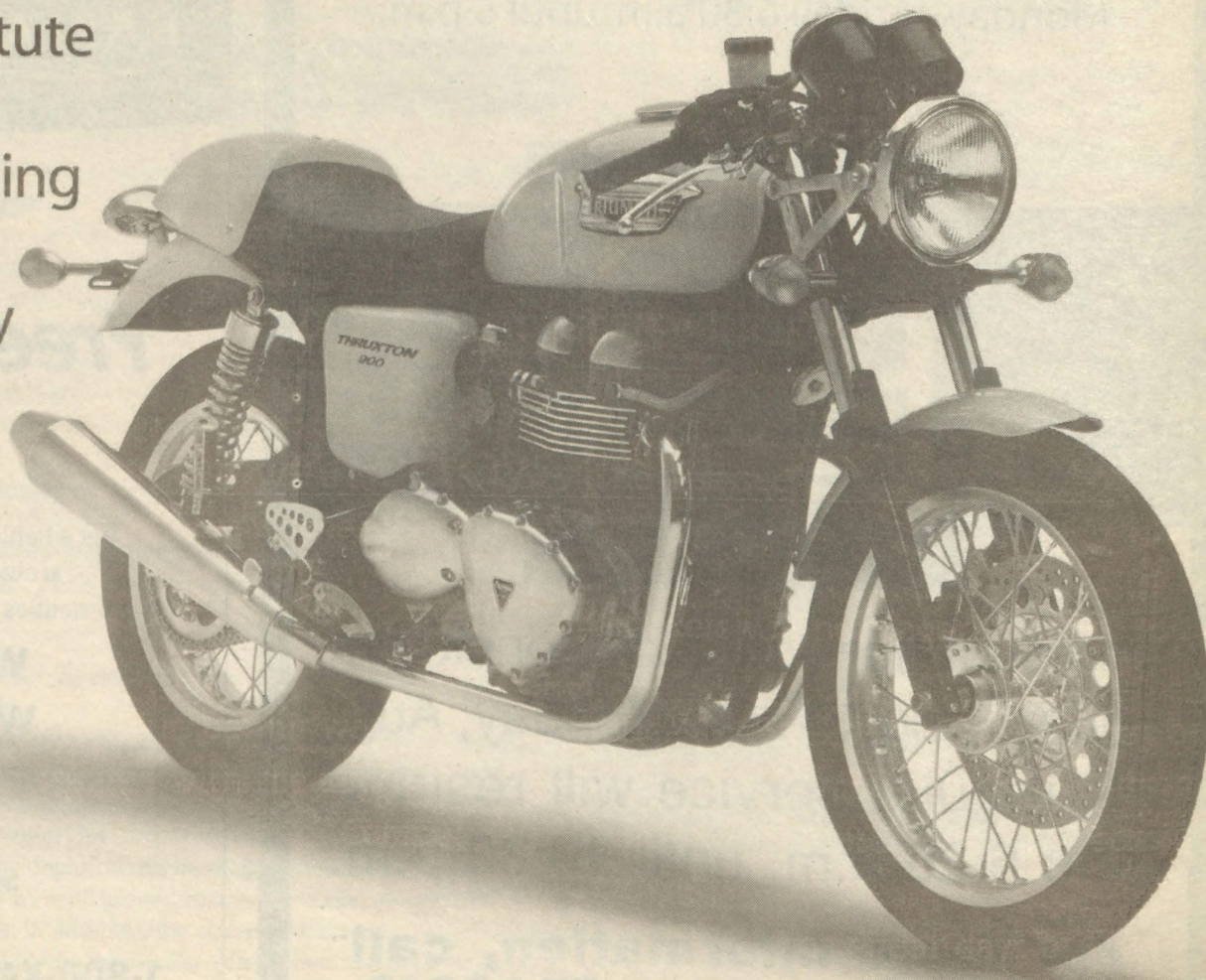
"*Global Warming in the Twenty-First Century*" has a suggested price of \$275, which may be deterrent for many students. However, both of Johansen's books on global warming are available at the UNO library and many others.



Bruce Johansen

Seasonal Motorcycle Parking

- north of Peter Kiewit Institute
(southwest corner of Lot 2)
- west of Engineering building
(southeast corner of Lot N)
- south of University Library
(northwest corner of Lot M)
- north of Kayser Hall
(northwest corner of Lot A)



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Arts & Leisure

Andrew Cumbee | Arts & Leisure

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a&l@gateway.unomaha.edu | July 18, 2006

Riverfront Jazz and Blues Festival keeping jazz alive in Omaha

BRENT CRAMPTON

ASSISTANT NEWS/SPORTS EDITOR

Summer breeze, nacho cheese, accessing port-a-potties with ease, beer by the cup and jazz and blues by the strut – what more could you want on a night out?

Add thousands of people over two days, the Lewis and Clark Landing, and the 5th annual Omaha Riverfront Jazz and Blues Festival, and the deal is sealed. Only it already happened on July 7 and 8, and damn...you missed a good show.

Produced by the Midland's Cultural and Historical Association, the festival's aim is to celebrate the lasting impression of jazz and blues music. And while it emphasized jazz and blues music, think of this rather as a general template from which a plethora of genres sprung from, and those genres are subsequently displayed throughout the two-day music excursion.

We're talking performances by headliner Chaka Khan, jazz saxophonist Mindi Abair, blues diva Marcia Ball, contemporary jazz-jammers Spyro Gyra, jazz violinist Ken Ford, virtuoso vibraphonist and percussionist Steve Raybine, trumpeter Rick Braun and local-legend vibraphonist Luigi Waites.

When I arrived Friday evening, the sun was beginning to set, but it was evident that the crowd had already set their social circles with BYOLC (bring your own lawn chairs). Nearly the entire space at the Lewis and Clark Landing was filled, with vendors near the back and a full lighting and sound stage with a VIP tent near the front. Spyro Gyra was performing, and the drummer was in a hi-fi drum solo. Popping in and out with

that poppy jazz sound, Gyra laid down the melodies as the thick crowds were filling in.

But the cream of the soul crop in the aforementioned list would be Chaka Khan. This is the singer who, back in 1971, impressed producer Bob Monaco so much that he said, "I thought I'd just heard the next Aretha Franklin or the next coming of Christ." And when I caught her performance that Friday and the lyrics on the first song were heard, I was waiting for the clouds to part. While the clouds didn't do much, the brightly-lit moon shined on the crowds as they began to part; one half to the bar and bathrooms to stock up for the next hour of energy, and the other half cramming closer to the stage.

As everyone stirred out of their fold-up lawn chairs, hands were being clapped; mouths were singing the familiar words and plenty of soul-step dancing ensued. This was the highlight of the night for me.

While the venue was beautiful, set right next to the Missouri River, the parking wasn't easy. Since I was prepared for this, I just took the first spot I saw near 13th and Farnam streets and enjoyed the walk over. Unfortunately, a group of friends of mine came down from Lincoln to catch the event on my recommendation. While Mapquest can be self-evident, a few wrong turns and a pioneering spirit plotted them near 10th and Pacific. After climbing multiple fences and walking through high grass, the concert was over and so was their unsuccessful journey.

Nonetheless, the Omaha Riverfront Jazz and Blues Festival is laying the road to preserve the sounds for all generations, even if the location of the road isn't self-evident.



photo by Ginger Swineheart

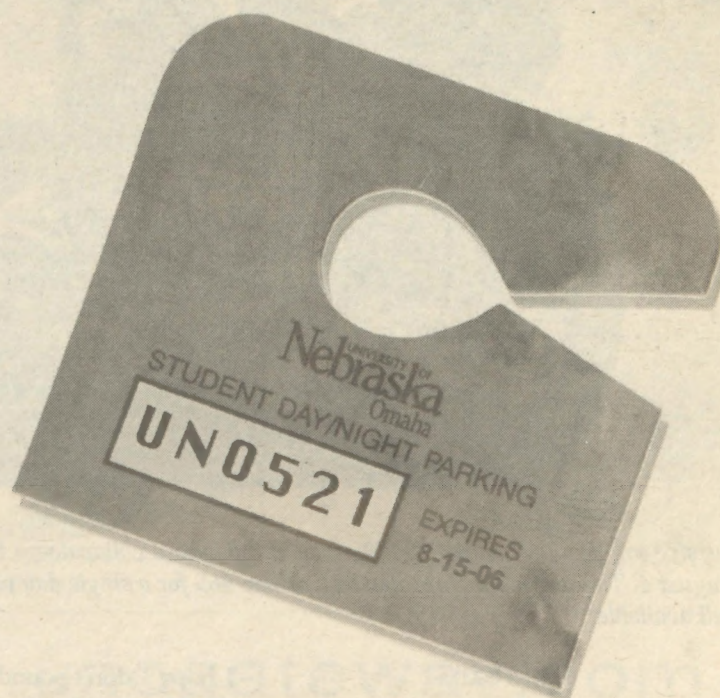
Thousands of people showed up to the free Jazz and Blues Festival at the Omaha Riverfront on July 7 and 8, which featured a performance by Chaka Khan.

2006-2007 PARKING INFORMATION

PRICES FOR FALL, 2006

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Reserved | \$234 |
| Faculty/Staff | \$114 |
| Faculty/Staff (night only) | \$57 |
| Student | \$80 |
| Student (night only) | \$40 |
| GTA | \$94 |

All those who use the PARKING STRUCTURE will be assessed a surcharge of \$30 in addition to the permit price.



Permits will consist of a HANGAR ONLY. Validation stickers will no longer be used.

In cases where a transferable permit would not be practical, a SPECIAL PERMIT may be used for individuals with special circumstances with the approval of the manager of Campus Security. Individuals requesting such a permit should contact the manager of Campus Security prior to permit issuance for consideration.

PARKING VIOLATION APPEALS must be submitted within 30 calendar days of the date of the ticket. After the 30 days, the right to appeal is forfeited. Special exceptions may be approved by the manager of Campus Security.

Swashbuckling *Pirates* sequel provides a chest full of precious booty

RYAN RAKOWSKY
STAFF WRITER

Make no mistake: *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* sails along almost entirely on the appeal of Johnny Depp as Jack Sparrow. Ahem, make that Captain Jack Sparrow. Depp so completely inhabits the pirate that it's hard to imagine there's an actor behind him.

Whether drunkenly swaggering about the hull of the Black Pearl, or strutting away from a pack of hungry cannibals, Depp's appeal in this role is hard to deny — even for those who have been a bit weirded out by his previous work. As Jack, Depp is flouncy yet manly.

But is Jack a self-serving and completely dishonorable lout, or does the man actually possess a conscience and have some small degree of loyalty? You'll be kept guessing all the way through.

The plot is a bit of a jumble. It starts out with all of the characters scattered. They are eventually brought together to steal the key to the chest in the film's title from the tentacle-bearded captain of the Flying Dutchman, Davy Jones (Bill Nighy). You see, Jack owes a debt to Jones, and Jones is not one to forgive his debts lightly.

It's easy to see that Disney has invested more money into this film than they did into the first. *Dead Man's Chest* has impressive special effects and spectacular stunt work. This film also has an engaging and emotional father-son plotline, in addition to the chick-flick love story left over from the first *Pirates*.

Keira Knightley is still gorgeous as Elizabeth Swann and is completely game for the wild and violent antics of the boys' club that surrounds her. As Will Turner, Orlando Bloom holds his own and is believable as her honorable fiancé. Plenty of other characters return from the first movie, but finding out who is half the fun, so I won't spoil it here.

Overall, *Dead Man's Chest* outperforms the first picture, and the action is better spread throughout the film. It does, however, still make the common action film mistake of dragging on a little too long. The final battle scenes lasts about 45 minutes, which if condensed would lend the film a heftier impact.

As there are still more *Pirates* movies

to be released, we are left with a cliffhanger ending. It's hard to leave the theater feeling completely satisfied when major plot points are left unresolved.

Still, it's one of the better films of the summer. *Dead Man's Chest* is a must-see, if only for Depp's madcap performance.

Grade: B+



Sword slinging buccaneers battle for the key to the dead man's chest in the sequel to 2003's blockbuster *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*.

Disney

Indie-rockers Cursive thrill hometown crowd with triumphant return



Saddle Creek Records

Cursive can be found on the Q-101 stage at this year's Lollapalooza Festival in Chicago's Grant Park on August 4. Tickets for the three-day festival are \$65 for a single day pass or \$150 for all three days and are still available.

ANGI SADA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tim Kasher has the sexiest, most maniacal laugh since Jeremy Iron's turn as Scar in *The Lion King*. That laugh, paired with the fact I was standing next to the beautiful prince of Saddle Creek illuminati, The Faint's Todd Fink, at Saturday night's show made it a scandalous evening. Well, that and waiting for my photographer outside of the building beneath the men's restroom windows while a bar acquaintance handled his business.

Despite a rocky start with media access and the show's promoters, I really enjoyed the tail end of La Salle, who sounded great from the foyer of the steamy Sokol Auditorium.

I hope I don't sound bitter about missing them because I really did have fun haggling and sweating like a man in front of Omaha's indie-rock royalty.

Nonetheless, I was giddy about the opportunity to see them again. The last time I saw them was in the Sokol Underground with Criteria in November 2005. They capped that night off with a slew of Cyndi Lauper covers, including "(Goonies R) Good Enough" from the 1985 movie *The Goonies*. After soothing my tattered nerves with an unspecified amount of beer and several incidental run-ins with friends I've not seen for ages, I was ready to get my face rocked off by Cursive's beautiful barrage of melodic bounty.

And, that I did. Starting with "Big Bang" from the upcoming release, *Happy Hollow*, they tore the stage up one side and down the other as intentionally sad-looking girls in vintage dresses and dowdy shoes clung tightly to their gangly, unkempt boyfriends who were almost certainly wearing their little sister's jeans.

They huffed and puffed on long cigarettes that dangled apathetically from their downward drawn lips while they held cocktails in clear keg cups with skinny hands and bent wrists. That went on while I continued to consume barley soda and raise my fists (heresy in the midst of girly elitism), motivated by the sheer ferocity of the rock in the air.

Intelligent, ferocious and fun to watch, they elevated me to a peaceful place with an evolving maturity in everything from their instrumentation to their stage presence. The band

made my whole heart glow by playing "The Lament of Pretty Baby" off of 2000's *Domestica*. The glow cooled me back to my passive-aggressive self and I continued to enjoy 99 percent of the evening.

The show, which started with Chicago band Make Believe at 8 p.m., moved along with much speed and many clever asides from Kasher, felt a little rushed. Kasher gushed with appreciative accolades for the full crowd, while the amazing horn section drained their spit valves, reapplied lip balm, enjoyed a cold beverage or whatever they needed to do.

The real delight and surprise of the show was watching a stunningly beautiful woman set up a cello before Cursive's set

began. The joy that filled my bosom was only eclipsed by momentary flashbacks to the balmy entrance debate. But, back to the joy.

As I was saying, I was overjoyed by the presence of the cellist, Annie LePerry. Her performance was inherent to the successful live translation of many songs off of *The Ugly Organ*, including "The Recluse." This song, in particular, saw the crowd swell with energy and found me being tapped on the shoulder by a guy with no neck and shiny, spiky black hair in a fraternity T-shirt yelling, "I love these guys. They f@#!ing rock!" and offering me an incredibly awkward high-five.

As the night drew on, Kasher goofily prepared the stoic crowd for the obligatory encore by explaining the process, left the stage and then delivered said encore. Guitarist Ted Stevens stepped up to the microphone for "Bad Science," another track from *Happy Hollow*. Stevens' vocal performance was breathtaking; almost as pretty as the multi-talented LePerry, who played keyboard throughout the night, as well.

The night closed around 11:30 p.m., allowing me to visit the 49'r Lounge for an hour. I sat in front of the Arachnid dart machine reading the clever quips and doses of alcohol-logged philosophy that flashed across the blue screen.

Despite Cursive's energy and upbeat demeanor in the face of the intensely serious subject matter visited in their lyrics, the elitist attitude that permeated throughout the crowd made one unattributed morsel of eight-legged bar wisdom ring true: Seriousness is the mask of the shallow.

However unpleasant much of the human interaction on the floor was, the interaction from the stage was testament to the fact that Cursive is one of the best live bands I've ever seen.

Even though there was no "She-Bop" encore I would sweat through altercation and aggression over and over for that kind of show.

Mikey eats everything

I've always hated the LIFE cereal commercials. Not the ones depicting abnormally cute children consuming the lightly-sweetened cereal, but the ones with Mikey. Remember the commercials with the two young boys afraid to eat the cereal? They ended up giving it to Mikey because "Mikey eats everything!" Well, it just so happened to be that my name was Mikey, and apparently, I ate everything, as well.

I was a fat kid. Not big boned or thick, but really fat. Ever since the big exit from my mother's womb I've been battling problems with my weight. I didn't eat more than any of the other kids; it was just the way I was. My friends could eat endless candy bars and look the same; I would eat one and have man boobs the following day.

I guess I never realized my weight was an issue until I started school. Kids are really cruel. They look so cute in the LIFE cereal commercials, but as soon as the cameras turn off, the claws come out. These claws ripped away at my self esteem on a daily basis, with jokes and laughter always being directed my way.

"Mikey eats everything!" followed me around like a shadow. I even had a teacher say it to me; he thought it was funny and so did the rest of the class. I sat there trying to fight back the tears.

When I entered high school I weighed 230 pounds. I was the second fattest kid in my grade. The lunch lady would give me extra portions of food because she assumed I was always hungry and the football coach encouraged me to join the team because of my size. I still don't know what he thought I would do; I joined and quit two weeks later. Apparently I had "physical induced asthma" or so my doctor said. It was just a nice way of telling me that I was too fat to do anything physical.

I don't really remember when I had my "great awakening," but I have a hunch that it involved an Oprah special and a box of tissues. I looked at myself in the mirror, which was no easy task, and said, "What the hell am I doing?" My body in no way matched the person I was on the inside, and I knew that had to change.

I started changing my lifestyle in the summer of 2000. I cut my portions in half, ran at least a mile everyday (more like walked for a good month or so. Us fat people have to take things slowly) and even joined Weight Watchers with my mom. The weight started rolling off. By the end of the summer I had lost 35 pounds. I was feeling good about myself, and damn, I looked good. I went back to school that fall as a new man. Friends congratulated me and all the girls began noticing my svelte new frame. I finally felt like the man I was within.

Five years later I weigh in at a healthy 175 pounds. I wouldn't say I battle with my weight anymore, but that old saying "Once fat, always fat" couldn't be more true. The

thing is, even after I lost all the weight, the feelings that came with being overweight never left me. The years of torment and laughter that came from "Mikey eats everything" have left a permanent scar on my heart and a constant reminder in my mind. I still weigh myself every morning and avoid buffets at all costs. I still get self-conscious when I take off my shirt and I never have second portions in front of strangers. It sounds

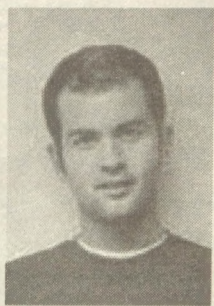
ridiculous coming from me, being as tall and skinny as I am, but it's the unfortunate truth.

Can I blame anyone? Not really, I guess I only have myself to blame. I let the words and laughter from my childhood follow me around, I let them penetrate into my heart, so I suppose I have to face them now.

It's hard sharing this story with anyone because there seems to be such a lack of understanding. Nobody can figure out why the anorexic girl won't eat, why the overweight girl continues to eat and why thoughts of purging oneself is a constant struggle. Though, perhaps we understand more than we want to admit. Perhaps you were the little boy who called the chubby girl fat or the teacher who called the fat boy thick. Sometimes we don't understand the power of words, but if you're the one who has to hear them, the meaning is clear.

Send questions and comments to mmcmanus@mail.unomaha.edu

How Typical



Michael McManus

Where's Congress?

Pop quiz: how many branches does the United States government have? We should all know from American government classes that our country has three branches of government: executive, legislative and judicial. Unfortunately, it's becoming increasingly difficult to keep track of the legislative branch. Between re-election campaigns, public appearances and trying to prove that they're the perfect representation of their party, it's nearly impossible to keep track of senators and representatives. It's like playing a game of *Where's Waldo* where you always lose and the pictures aren't nearly as funny.

With November elections just around the corner, Congress is a flurry of activity in places other than in sessions. With the Republicans diving as far away from the president as they can and the Democrats heralding themselves as the "non-Republican" party, almost no one is paying attention to the issues that actually matter, or giving valid reasons why they're the better candidate.

With all of the absences and pork-barrel legislation, Congress is becoming less and less efficient while deciding how much they should get paid for doing so. Not only does Congress set its own wages, they've voted to raise their salaries seven times since the last increase in the minimum wage. According to senate.gov/reference/resources, they currently make \$165,200. I know Waldo never made that much.

All these problems stem from one source: accountability, or the lack thereof. No one pays attention to who attends the sessions and committee meetings because

we're too worried about immigration, gay marriage and the war. The only time we pay attention to Congress is when our senators and representatives come back to campaign for office, or to support a friend's campaign.

Congress knows we're apathetic to their actions because they're American citizens just like us. If the public were to snap out of its slumber and start caring about the people that represent it, Congress would undoubtedly become more efficient and more like the entity that it is supposed to be.

It's time that America starts demanding that its senators and representatives do the jobs we elect them to do. We must insist they start demanding quorum calls, so business isn't conducted without a majority of the members there. We should demand Congress members attend nearly every vote, especially votes that have an impact on their constituents.

Let's push for stricter, shorter re-election campaigns,

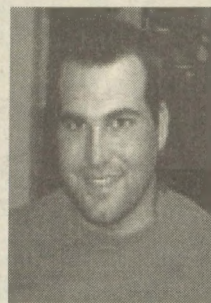
especially in the House. If a representative spends nearly a year working for re-election, it means he or she is concentrating on House business just over one year of their two-year term. If anybody else performed at 50 percent efficiency, I'm pretty sure he or she would be fired.

The old saying is "actions speak louder than words." It's time for America to be able to find Waldo right where he's supposed to be: in Washington D.C.

Do Congressmen really think being re-elected is more important than doing the job they were elected to do in the first place? Give me a break.

All comments are welcome at lance.tallen@gmail.com

Give me a break

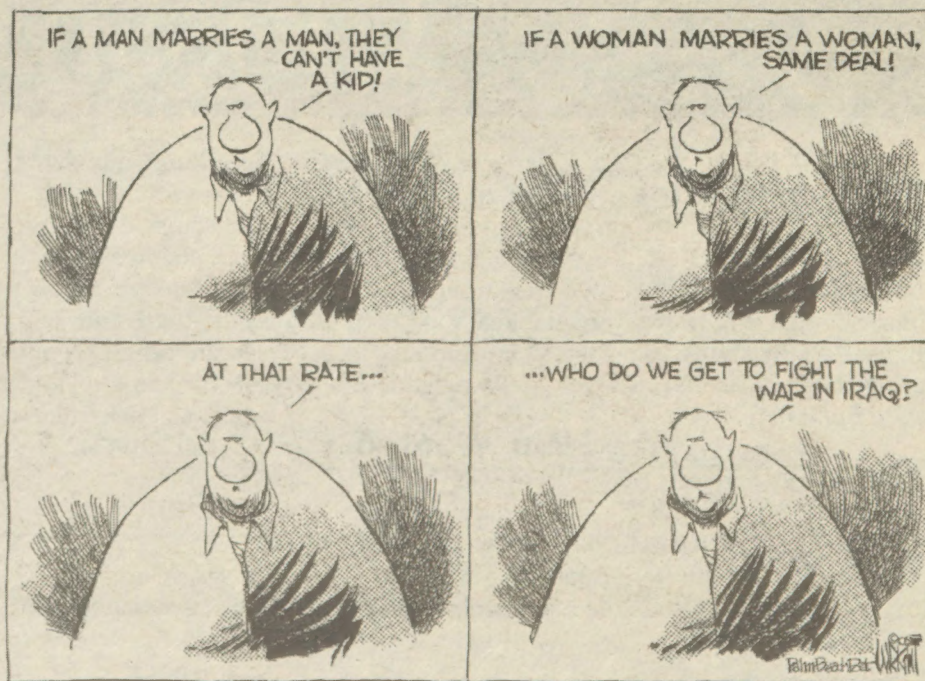
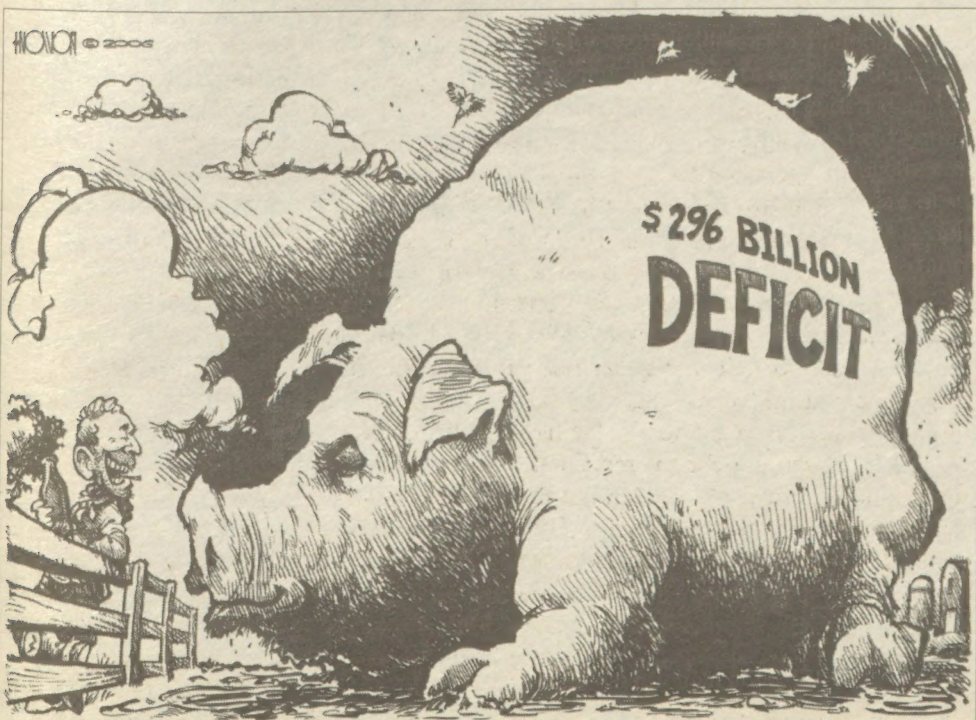


Lance Allen

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Editorial and letter

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and available space. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters for publication. Letters must be signed using the writer's first and last names. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes only. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication.

ruling.

UNO Student Regent Steve Massara was not surprised by the conviction.

"I had a feeling he was going to be removed from office," said Massara. "You cannot weave yourself into those sorts of lies."

The court found that Hergert failed to make required campaign finance reports to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, which resulted in opponent Don Blank not receiving matching public funds. To avoid criminal charges, Hergert settled with the NDAC, agreeing to pay \$33,512.10 in late filing fees and civil penalties.

Following this settlement, Hergert became the center of public criticism. A UNL student group, Huskers Against Hergert, formed in November and began publishing a blog, huskersagainsthergert.com. UNL's student government, the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, unanimously passed a resolution calling for Hergert to resign. A similar resolution failed UNO's Student Senate in September and again in December.

"This matter has been a distraction and a disruption of the important work of the

Board of Regents and has taken attention away from many positive accomplishments of our campuses and the board," said Chairman Jim McClurg in a statement. "It has tarnished the reputation of the board and the university, and we will work diligently to restore the public's confidence and trust."

McClurg said he is prepared for the appointment.

"I'm ready to move on with the important work of the university and get this behind us," McClurg said.

According to state law, Governor Dave Heineman will appoint a replacement for Hergert who will serve until Jan. 9, 2007. Heineman's office will accept applications from residents of the seventh district until July 21 and that he remains optimistic about the search.

"In filling this vacancy, one of my top priorities is to appoint a regent capable of representing the best interests of all of western Nebraska," Heineman said in a statement. "My hope is to find someone who understands the university's missions of outreach, education, creativity and research."

An application form is available at gov.state.ne.us/bc/app.html.



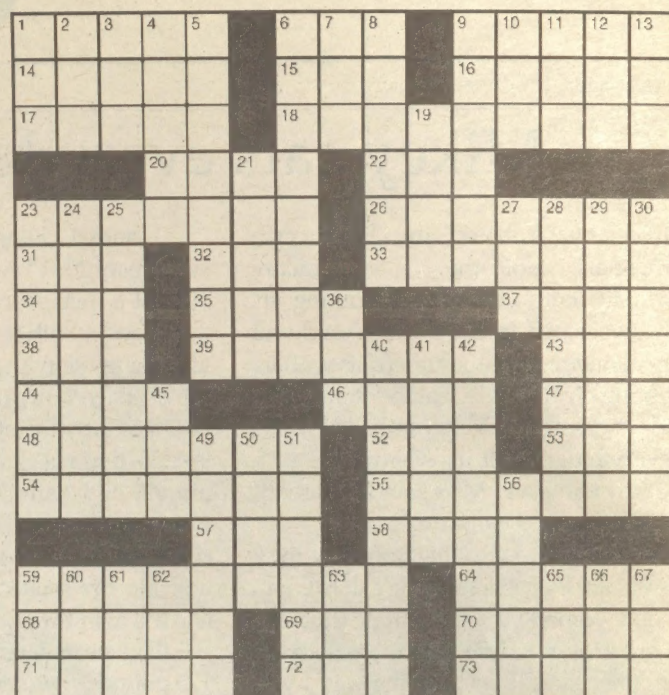
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Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Make sense
 - Simple bed
 - Mason's Street
 - Peachy keen!
 - Paris street
 - Sandwich cookies
 - Streisand film
 - Sacred stories set to music
 - Long, slippery swimmers
 - Launch area
 - Synopses
 - Elongated rectangles
 - Sizable
 - Do something
 - "The Waste Land" poet
 - Worn cloth
 - Musical group
 - Arp's art
 - Writer Beattie
 - Vanilla bean
 - 38 Special, e.g.
 - Gang member
 - Nap
 - Furthermore
 - Formula math
 - Cut off
 - Canape spread
 - Spa employee
 - Absent with permission
 - Opening letters
 - Shapely fruit
 - Four twenty-threes
 - Watts of "Le Divorce"
 - Fully developed
 - Charleson or Carmichael
 - Cultural values
 - Fragrant yellow flower
 - Weep
 - Apothecary units

- DOWN**
- Even one
 - Billy Williams
 - Dapper man
 - Absolute
 - Skunks
 - Transverse beam
 - "Town"



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7/17/06

- 8 __ Dome (1921 scandal)
9 Scribble
10 Go wrong
11 Hawaiian garland
12 London lav.
13 Blockhead
19 File markers
21 Money or profits
23 Father of Isaac
24 Mechanical musical instrument
25 Yuletide quaffs
27 Run to seed
28 Falls for a honeymoon?
29 "Boris __"
30 Spectator with no seat

- 36 Like Simon's couple
40 Horse for a game
41 Ultraviolet filter
42 Left a jet
45 Moines, IA
49 Ned or Warren

Solutions

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59 Writer Hentoff
60 McKinley or Lupino
61 Sister
62 Chicago transp.
63 Open hostilities
65 Sounds of surprise
66 Cohort of Curly
67 Orbital home

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Welcome Back issue publishes on Tuesday, August 22

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